

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA)
2007 Annual Report to Congress on Implementation of Public Law 106-107

I. Overview

- During the reporting period, NASA awarded 2,604 new discretionary grants and cooperative agreements for a total amount of \$553,453,295.
- NASA is actively participating in all facets of the P.L. 106-107 efforts and in the interagency initiatives targeted to streamlining research administration, such as the Federal Demonstration Partnership and the National Science and Technology Council's Research Business Models Subcommittee. NASA senior management is fully committed to supporting these efforts.
- NASA staff also serves on the Grants Policy Committee of the Chief Financial Officers' Council and the Grants Executive Board. The CFO Council's Grants Policy Committee is responsible for coordinating proposals resulting from grants streamlining initiatives and serves as the decision-making body for grant policies. The Grants Executive Board serves as the executive sponsor of the Grants.gov and Grants Management Line of Business (GMLoB) E-Gov initiatives. The Grants Policy Committee and Grants Executive Board work closely. The following bullets detail the activities under way in the P.L. 106-107 workgroups and related committees where NASA participates:
 - P.L. 106-107 Pre-Award Work Group. This group studied the existing Government-wide grants-management rules. It also recommended how to streamline and re-package the rules in the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) new location at 2 CFR.
 - Research and Related Work Group. This group developed and tested application packages for use by Federal agencies that solicit research applications. Continues to identify and address concerns of the research agencies related to Grants.gov.
 - Training and Certification Work Group. This group addresses issues concerning the federal workforce responsible for implementing the changes resulting from P.L. 106-107 and the Grants.gov and GMLoB initiatives. We benchmarked grants management training courses to determine the current baseline and identify best practices to developed competencies for the workforce.

II. Grants.gov

Currently, 100 percent of all discretionary and competitive funding opportunities are announced in Grants.Gov. Of the thirty (30) funding opportunities announced on Grants.gov, 100% of these grant programs were available for electronic application through grants.gov. In addition to the thirty (30) funding opportunities posted, two (2) synopses were posted to announce the omnibus solicitations issued by NASA. Each individual program element under the omnibus solicitation

was synopsised separately and application packages were associated with those individual announcements. During the reporting period, NASA received a total of 10,946 grant applications electronically of which 2.5% or 275 grant applications were received electronically via Grants.gov. The other 97.5% was received through the NASA Solicitation and Proposal Integrated Review and Evaluation System (NSPIRES).

External outreach efforts included participating in the Federal Demonstration Partnership meetings held in Washington DC and presenting NASA's status and progress with Grants.gov; monitoring the Grants.gov application submission instructions on NASA Sponsor Research Business Activity (SRBA) and NSPIRES websites; and updating the NASA Research Announcement (NRA) Proposer's Guidebook to include instructions on how to apply through Grants.gov. The Grants.gov Initiative has benefited NASA and its grant programs by providing broader exposure to a wider community who could potentially apply for NASA funding. In addition, Grants.gov provides a single site for the grantee community to apply for grants using a standard set of forms, processes and systems giving greater access and ability to apply for Federal funding.

III. Grants Management Line of Business (GM LoB)

NASA declared its intent to become a GMLoB Consortia Member in 2006, and the Agency is now in the process of finalizing a new Memorandum of Understanding with the National Science Foundation (NSF) to join the Research.gov Consortium. As a member of the NSF consortium, NASA will work cooperatively with NSF to leverage the experience and commitment to the research community. Discussions are currently ongoing to determine which of NSF's current and planned service offerings will best complement or extend the capabilities of the NASA Solicitation and Proposal Integrated Review and Evaluation System (NSPIRES). NASA and NSF, along with the other consortia partners, will also continue to foster relationships in the research community and support the goals of P.L. 106-107.

IV. Debarment and Suspension

On April 20, 2007, NASA issued a final rule in the Federal Register to establish a new Part 1880 on nonprocurement debarment and suspension in Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). This new part was NASA's implementation of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) guidance provided at 2 CFR Part 180. In light of the new Part 1880, NASA removed 14 CFR Part 1265 which contained the previous NASA implementation of the government-wide common rule on nonprocurement debarment and suspension.

V. Agency Commitment to Future Involvement with Government-wide Grants Initiatives

NASA will continue to post all discretionary and competitive funding opportunities on Grants.Gov. NASA will begin its participation in the GMLoB consortium led by NSF in January 2008 to identify areas of collaboration and partnership.